# Satellites

**Air Force Satellite Control Network**
The Air Force Satellite Control Network consists of worldwide remote tracking stations providing assured command, control and communications (C3) connectivity between ground satellite operations centers and more than 150 DoD, national program and civil satellites. The AFSCN conducts approximately 165,000 satellite sorties per year and is critical for C3, space safety, position determination, emergency recovery, initial launch and deployment and disposal operations.

**Defense Support Program**
**Primary function:** Strategic and tactical missile launch detection. **Dimensions:** Diameter - 22 ft. on orbit and 13.7 ft. at launch. **Weight:** 5,250 lbs. **Power:** Solar array generate 1,485 watts. **Orbit:** Approximately 22,300 miles.

**Defense Meteorological Satellite Program**
**Primary function:** Collect terrestrial, space environment and earth surface data. **Dimensions:** 14.1 ft. long. **Weight:** 2,545 lbs., including 592-pound sensor payload. **Power:** 10 panels, generating 2,000 watts of power. **Orbit:** Approximately 450 nautical miles.

**Milstar Satellite Communications System**
**Primary function:** Global military communications system. **Weight:** 10,000 lbs. **Power:** Solar panels generating 8,000 watts. **Orbit:** 22,250 miles.

**Defense Satellite Communications System**
**Primary function:** Worldwide, long-haul communications. **Dimensions:** Phase III — rectangular body, 6 ft. x 6 ft. x 7 ft., 38 ft. span with solar arrays deployed. **Weight:** Phase III — 2,716 lbs. **Power:** Solar arrays generating an average of 1,500 watts. **Orbit:** 22,230 miles.